

Art Unit: 3763

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Tanigawa on 02/24/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A connector device for fitting and removing a closing means on an end portion of a tubular element, comprising:
 - a) a container provided with a cover; said container having a bottom and perimeter walls extending from said bottom to said cover, so as to define an external lateral surface of the container and the lateral surface of an internal chamber of said container;
 - b) at least one connection extending from said external lateral surface of the container for coupling said internal chamber to a tubular element of specified diameter the connection being engaged with a connector comprising a sleeve coupled to said connection, said connector comprising a spring abutting between said sleeve and a charging handgrip;
 - c) a rotating platform inside said chamber at the bottom thereof; [[,]]
 - d) a pin integral with said rotating platform;
 - e) an actuator for rotation of said pin;
 - f) at least one closing means, having a pointed end intended to be received in said end portion of the tubular element and a tail end opposite to the pointed end; and
 - g) a receiving housing that ~~is able to receives~~ and holds a first closing means from said end portion of the tubular element; and a releasing housing that ~~is able to~~ contains and releases a second closing means, in said end portion of the tubular element; said receiving and releasing housings within said container, provided with an opening for passage of the closing means, being fixed on said rotating platform with said opening turned towards said perimeter walls;

Art Unit: 3763

wherein said charging handgrip, said sleeve and said spring being arranged so as to bring the end portion of the tubular element closer to one of said receiving and releasing housings.

2. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said receiving housing comprises, internally, retaining means, and said closing means has undercut portions which are able to receive said retaining means when said closing means is received in said receiving housing.

3. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said closing means is held spring-loaded radially inside said releasing housing.

4. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the spring-loaded closing means is subjected to the action of an elastic component positioned inside said releasing housing capable of abutting against said tail end of the closing means to cause the closing means to travel a predetermined distance towards said connection.

5. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the perimeter walls of the container constitute a stop for said closing means under the action of the elastic component.

6. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the perimeter walls of the container have at least one pair of fixed cam elements for said closing means projecting circumferentially from the perimeter walls on one side relative to said connection.

7. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that said releasing housing comprises stopping means, and said closing means has a peripheral recess able to receive said stopping means when said closing means is contained in said releasing housing; said stopping means being able to prevent the withdrawal of the closing means in the space of the predetermined travel of said elastic component.

Art Unit: 3763

8. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that said connection is passable for coupling of said end portion of tubular element with the pointed end of the first and of the second closing means.

Claims 9-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim [[9]] 1, characterized in that said coupling is of the threaded type.

12. (original) The device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that said coupling is of the luer lock type.

13. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said receiving housing is a receptacle that is open on the side facing the perimeter walls and is liquid-tight against them.

14. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said pointed end of the closing means comprises sealing means which interact with said end portion of tubular element.

15. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said pointed end of the closing means extends towards said tail end thereof with a body of diameter greater than the diameter of said tubular element.

16. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said actuator is constituted of a handle coupled to said pin passing through said cover.

17. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that said cover has, externally, reference marks for the handle for positioning the receiving and releasing housings.

Art Unit: 3763

18. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said container further includes two routes of communication with the exterior.

19. (original) The device as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that said two routes of communication are connections for end portions of tubular elements.

20. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, provided with valved means for selectively establishing the passage of a fluid between said connection for coupling to said tubular element and one of said two routes of communication at a time.

21. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said receiving housing contains disinfecting means.

22. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that said releasing housing contains disinfecting means.

23. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that said disinfecting means are constituted of povidone gel.

24. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said connection is closed with a fracture membrane.

Claims 25-30 (canceled)

31. (new) A set for peritoneal dialysis, comprising a catheter and a connector device for fitting and removing a closing means on an end portion of the catheter, wherein the device comprises:

Art Unit: 3763

- a) a container provided with a cover and two routes of communication with the exterior; said container having a bottom and perimeter walls extending from said bottom to said cover, so as to define an external lateral surface of the container and the lateral surface of an internal chamber of said container;
- b) at least one connection extending from said external lateral surface of the container for coupling said internal chamber to the catheter; the connection being engaged with a connector comprising a sleeve coupled to said connection, said connector comprising a spring abutting between said sleeve and a charging handgrip;
- c) a rotating platform inside said chamber at the bottom thereof;
- d) a pin integral with said rotating platform;
- e) an actuator for rotation of said pin;
- f) at least one closing means, having a pointed end intended to be received in said end portion of the catheter and a tail end opposite to the pointed end; and
- g) a receiving housing that receives and holds a first closing means from said end portion of the catheter; and a releasing housing that contains and releases a second closing means, in said end portion of catheter; said receiving and releasing housings within said container, provided with an opening for passage of the closing means, being fixed on said rotating platform with said opening turned towards said perimeter walls;

wherein said charging handgrip, said sleeve and said spring being arranged so as to bring the end portion of the catheter closer to one of said receiving and releasing housings.

32. (new) The set as claimed in claim 31, wherein the catheter has visual means of indication of the number of cycles of peritoneal dialysis.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 11-24, 31-32 are allowed.

Art Unit: 3763

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh-Nhu H. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-3228. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763

/Quynh-Nhu H. Vu/
Examiner, Art Unit 3763